

Department of Health and Hospitals
Office of Public Health
Emergency Medical Services-Children Fact Sheet

The Emergency Medical Services-Children (EMS-C) program was mandated under the Department of Health and Hospitals, Emergency Medical Services in 1995 due to the lack of initial and continuing education programs for emergency medical services personnel that include training in the emergency care of infants and children. The program also addresses the guidelines for referring children to the appropriate emergency treatment facility. This program has remained unfunded from the state since its implementation. Therefore, a reduction of funding would result in zero impact. However, an increase in funding would result in the successful implementation of the activity and the Bureau of EMS would promulgate all necessary rules and regulations to implement the provisions of RS 40:1300.104.

Objectives

- To encourage greater implementation of guidelines for hospital-based emergency departments appropriate for pediatric care.
- To assess, stabilize, and treat critically ill infants and children.
- To prepare a child for transfer to a pediatric intensive care unit or a pediatric trauma center.
- To provide pediatric continuing education to emergency medical personnel.

Performance Indicators

- Create guidelines for pediatric intensive care units and trauma centers.
- Develop educational guidelines for emergency medical staff.
- Establish guidelines for pediatric equipment lists for use in the pre-hospital and hospital settings.

Narrative

Concern for the safety of children is paramount to our society. Daily, EMS providers respond to an incident where a child is the patient. Currently, the education modules do not provide EMS professionals with the appropriate level of expertise. Only 2% of the Basic Life Support units and 18.4% of Advance Life Support units have all the essential pediatric equipment. Only 8.4% of Louisiana hospitals have pediatric inter-facility transfer guidelines and 26.3% of hospitals have pediatric inter-facility transfer agreements.

Better Health

The purpose of this proposal is to increase the awareness of EMS-C issues and the need to educate our provider. BEMS promotes the initial and continuing education programs for emergency medical services personnel that include training in the emergency care of infants and children. BEMS will create guidelines for referring children to the appropriate emergency treatment facilities and survey the level of pediatric equipment in a pre-hospital and hospital setting. BEMS will consult with Health Standards, so that BLS/ALS units have the appropriate pediatric equipment. BEMS will survey the state's EMS system for availability of on-line and off-line pediatric medical direction.

The Bureau of EMS is actively working with numerous stakeholders and the EMS-C Advisory Council to remain current on the latest statistical data related to pediatric pre-hospital. With the implementation of these activities, the Bureau of EMS will survey and develop evidence based guidelines for the pre-hospital setting with the goal of reducing pediatric morbidity and mortality.